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DPD-3149-59

8 May 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Finance Section, DPI**

**SUBJECT : Approval for Wesponder Beacon Purchase for  
C-130 Task**

**REFERENCE : DPD-1105-59, 8 May 1959, to Acting Chief, DPD,  
Same Subject**

1. In response to the request for approval contained in reference document and to your question regarding the activity to which this expenditure should be charged, I have the following replies:

a. The Chief, Materiel Branch, is correct in stating that the C-130 task as it relates to DPD is in fulfillment of the requirements laid upon the Air Section, Operations Branch.

b. I am aware of the background concerning the requirement for these beacons. You will recall my discussion with you wherein I mentioned being present at a meeting in Mr. Bissell's office when he gave oral approval for continued development on the Wesponder Beacon to parallel similar development on a like beacon in the Office of Communications. Therefore I approve the expenditure as outlined in para. 3 of reference.

2. I do not feel, however, that I can concur with the proposed method of payment suggested by you in para. 5 of your memo. My reasons are as follows:

a. In para. 4 you indicate that [ ] left the manufacturer under the impression that the cost was to be billed to LAC. It appears to me that to change the purported purchaser at this point from LAC to an individual whose organizational affiliation is not identified and where the billing is to be mailed to his home address would tend to confuse the manufacturer and to perhaps arouse suspicion regarding the bona fide nature of the procurement.

25X1

b. In addition, [ ] has a rather lengthy association with CIA in the area of clandestine air operations in the course

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of which I believe he has been associated more or less overtly in dealings with commercial organizations in a manner that perhaps could be assumed to have fairly well identified him as an individual engaged in some kind of unorthodox activities.

c. The Wesponder Beacon itself is a sufficiently unusual item that it is not subject to purchase ordinarily by private individuals unless they have some overt affiliation with a commercial aviation enterprise.

3. In view of the above, all of which points were checked with the Chief, Security Section, DPD, I would recommend the following course of action:

a. I would suggest that in order to reduce the time consumed in the payment process, and to eliminate the necessity for having LAC bill USAF, you consider communicating with [ ] 25X1  
[ ] Treasurer of LAC, in a manner that would permit interception 25X1  
of the billing and direct referral to you.

b. If you concur in my suggestion above, I would ask that you prepare correspondence to [ ] surfacing the problem and 25X1  
enlisting his cooperation.

**SIGNED**

**JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.**  
Acting Chief, DPD-LD/P

DPD-DD/P:JAC Jr/hh

Distr:

0 - Ch/Ftn/DPD

1 - A/Ch/DPD

1 - Ch/Devel/DPD

1 - Ch/Commo/DPD

1 - Ch/Mat/DPD

1 - Ch/AS/DPD

1 - Ch/Admin/DPD

1 - DPD/RI

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